

Philosophical concepts of justice and equity as a basis for governing the food-energy-water nexus

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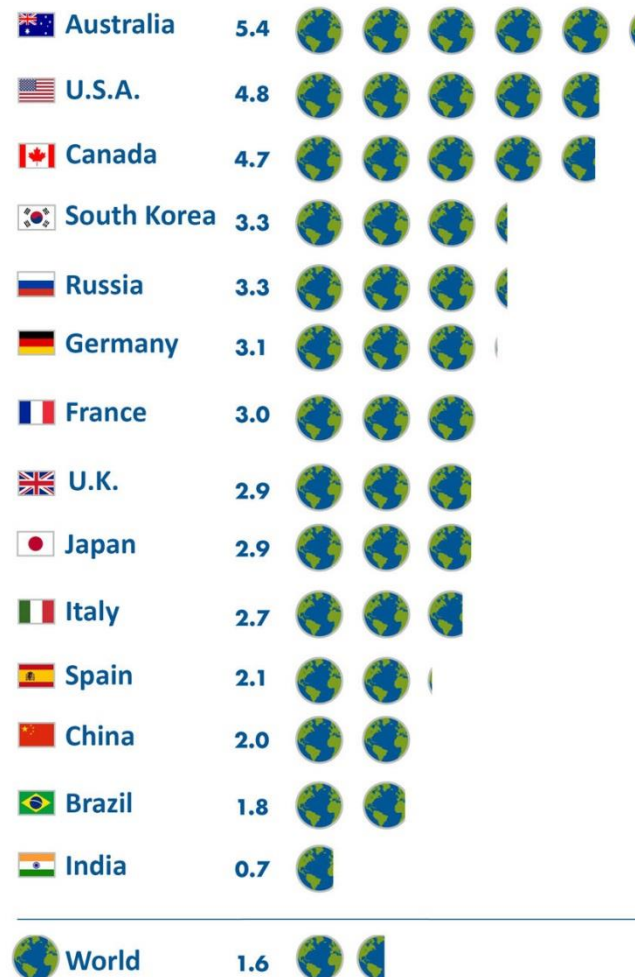
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- Why discussing philosophical principles within the FEW nexus context?
- Selected philosophical theories
 - Ancient world: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine
 - Renaissance: Aquinas
 - The Age of Enlightenment: Hobbes, Hume, Kant, Mill
 - Contemporary: Rawls, Nussbaum
 - Non-Western philosophies
- Nature Justice/Animal rights
- Implications for the FEW nexus

How many earths do we need actually?

How many Earths do we need if the world's population lived like...



Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2016

Dimensions of justice and equity

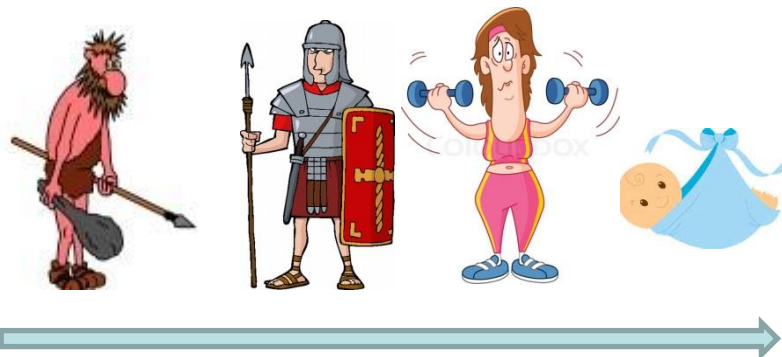
Individual



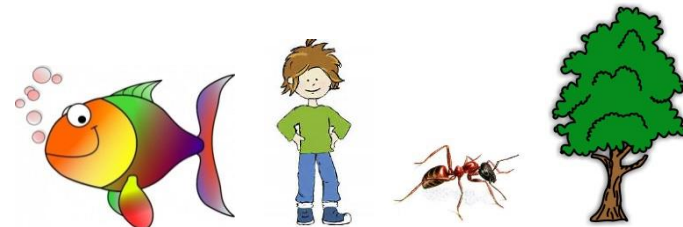
Spatial



Temporal



Between species

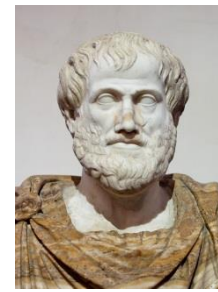


- Every culture has a different understanding of justice
- Meanings of justice:

Distributive justice

- What goods are to be distributed?
- Between what entities are they to be distributed?
- What is the proper distribution?

Justice and fairness are somehow **basic needs**



Source: wikipedia

- All individuals are aiming at felicity (eudaimonia) which can only be reached by living a good life
- For living a good life certain virtues have to be developed and all virtue is in justice comprehended: “The just man does what is advantageous to another, either his ruler or fellow subjects” (Aristotle, Book 5, Chapter 1)
- **Aristotle distincts the Just in the lawful and in the equal:**
 - **the lawful follows not only laws but also common rules and norms of behaviour**
 - **the equal characterizes a person who respects equality**
- Equity means a fair and mean distribution but does not mean the same for everybody. It rather means “**according to rate**” (Aristotle, Book 5, Chapter 3)
- A fair distribution lies in the Golden Mean between excess and privation
- Man has a sense of what is just and what is unjust



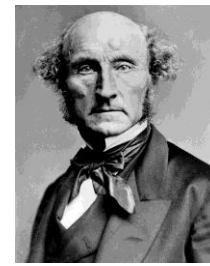
Source: wikipedia.de

- All values, including that of justice, are derived from passion rather than from reason
- Justice has not to be perfect equality
- **Rules of justice involve the protection of private property but public safety and the common good are superior**
- Justice comprises three principles:
 - the stability of possession
 - its transference by consent
 - the performance of promises



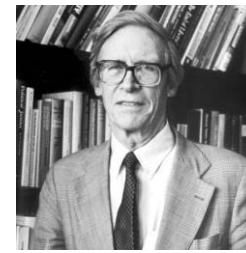
Source: wikipedia.de

- **Single fundamental principle of all duty: the categorical imperative**
 - **our acting could become universal law**
 - respect all persons as intrinsically valuable “ends in themselves”
- In the name of justice, we can claim rights to
 - physical property
 - the performance of a particular deed
 - certain characteristics of interpersonal relationships
- Need of an international league of nations that helps to maintain peace by working against external aggressions



Source: wikipedia

- If an action generates an excess of pleasure over pain, the action is right;
- If an action generates an excess of pain over pleasure, the action is wrong;
- **Utilitarianism: seeks to maximize the greatest good for the greatest number**
 - **forward-looking principle**
 - **how far into future do we have to forecast the consequences of action?**
- Five dimensions of justice:
 - respecting others legal rights
 - respecting others moral rights
 - giving a person what he deserves
 - keeping faith with others
 - being impartial in one's judgements



Source: Enzyklopaedia Britannica

- Individuals are free and equal, morally autonomous, rational agents, not necessarily egoists
- **“Veil of ignorance” (original position):**
If we didn’t know as whom, when and where we were born, what sort of society would we prefer?
- Two basic principles of justice for our society:
 - equality in the assignment of basic rights and duties
 - social and economic inequalities are only just if they result in compensating benefits for everyone, in particular the least advantaged members of society

- **“African” philosophy:** Community is ontologically prior to individuality
 - Reciprocal social justice: *ubuntu* (humanity, reciprocity, altruism, charity...)
- **“Chinese” philosophy:** justice as harmony, humans deserve love
 - Inequality and asymmetry can be tolerated since not every human deserves love in the same proportion (love for one’s family > love for strangers)
- **“Indian” philosophy:** hard to summarize since very broad;
 - Example Jainism: Social justice is entailed some bodily and mental virtues, like forgiveness, humility, truthfulness, straightforwardness, cleanliness, charitableness and self-restraint.

(Source: *Twisselmann/Ramirez, 2013*)

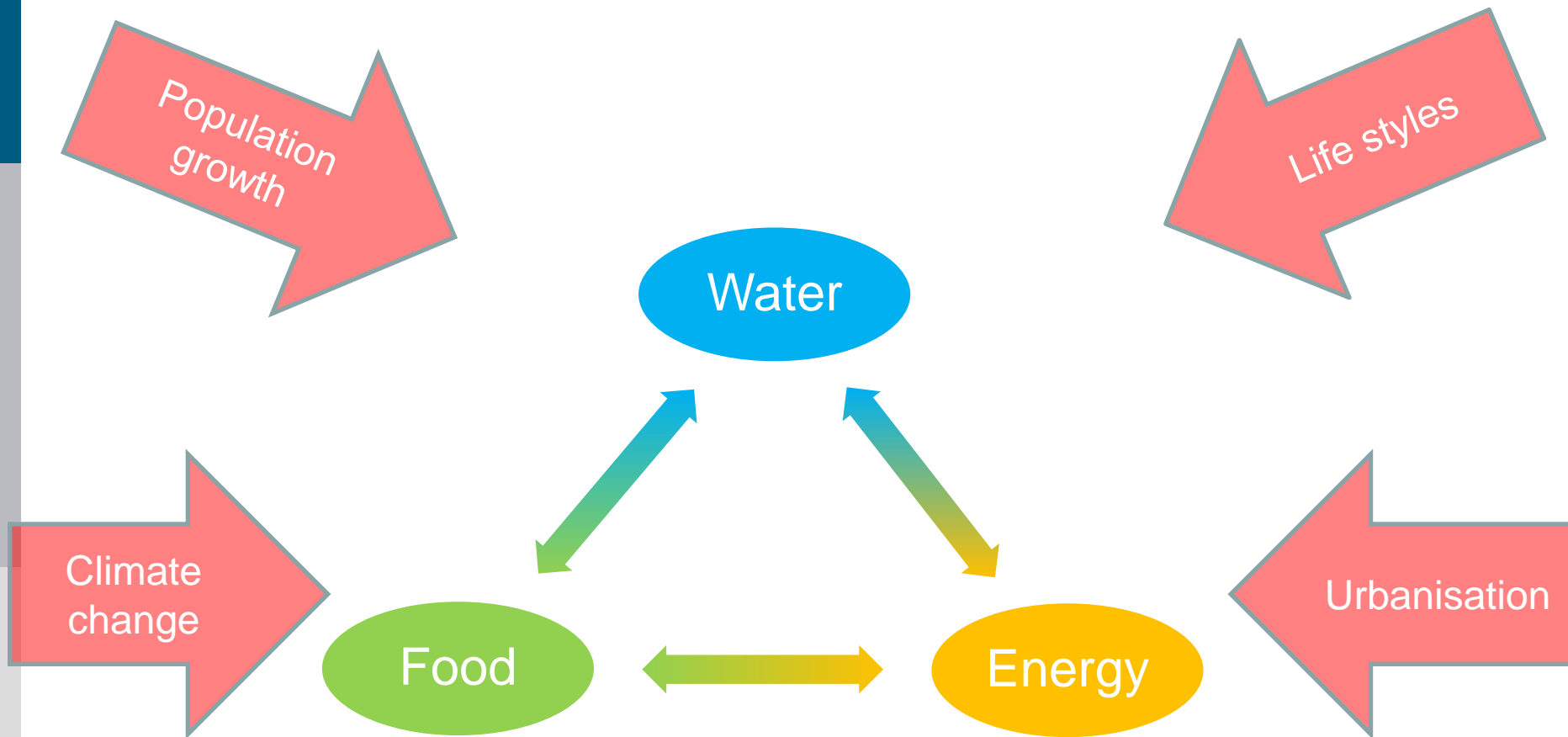
Which values do we pose on the environment?

- Hedonistic values
- Utilitarian values
- Intrinsic values
- Extrinsic values
- Divine values

Depending on the values we entitle the natural world with specific rights

Implications for the FEW nexus

- Satisfaction of basic needs seen as basic rights
- The more enlightened → the more equity
- Justice and fairness are seen as high (if not even the highest) virtues
→ being just is a necessity for living a good life
- Since we are emphatic creatures we have a natural sense of what is just
- The closer (spatial, temporal, characteristics) the easier to consider justice and equity



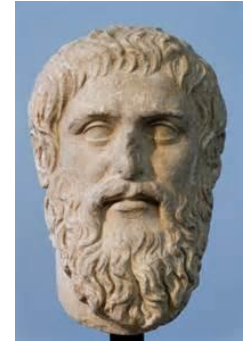
Implications for the FEW nexus

- Consideration of concepts of justice when taking decisions is important
- No general concept of FEW nexus justice applicable
- Depending on the specific situation more than one concept can be appropriate
 - Time frame
 - Spatial impact
 - Nature and species

Reducing or increasing equity?

References

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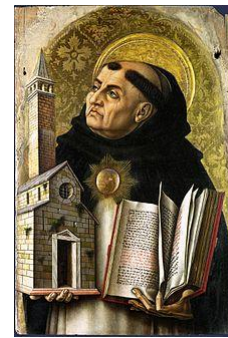
Source: wikipedia

- Justice is intrinsically valuable rather than only desirable for its contingent consequences.
- **Justice is seen as an essential virtue of both a good political state and a good personal character**
- Justice is part of the inner state of an individual that comprises the four pivotal virtues:
wisdom, courage, temperance and justice
- → an individual is just,
 - if the virtues temperance, courage and wisdom are balanced
 - if the individual is doing one's own work and not meddling with what isn't one's own



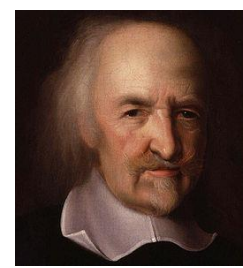
Source: wikipedia

- God is a good one
- **Justice is to be found in the freedom to follow God's laws and will**
- “Love and do what you will”, while love = the love of God
- Justice is a matter of individual choices
 - the individual conscience has supreme authority for the believer
- **Justice: “the virtue by which all people are given their due.”**
- A civil law of the state that violates God's eternal law is not morally binding and can be legitimately disobeyed in good conscience
- All men are created equal as the children of God, but they have not to be treated as equal because they have all been corrupted by original sin



Source: wikipedia

- The same virtues as Plato and Aristotle
- Proportional equality, or equity, instead of strict numerical equality
- Natural justice is always superior over the contingent agreements of human conventions
- **Ultimate aim: to win a way to heaven**
 - **urgent need to acting justly within the framework of the divine order**
- By justice, individuals are committed to always respecting the rights of others
- Cruelty to other human beings is sinful but cruelty to animals is not since animals don't have souls



Source: wikipedia

- “Every man is enemy to every man” (*Leviathan*)
- Justice, friendship, benevolence and love are valued only for their consequences
- By reason humans omit the “war of every man against every man” (*Leviathan*)
- In order to achieve peace humans must give up their rights to harm others, based on reciprocity
 - social contract that constitutes the basis of civil society
- **By moving from the state of nature to the state of civil society: rules of justice are created by the agreements people strike with one another**
 - **break of the covenant is unjust; what is not unjust is just**
- In order to reach security a great deal of personal liberty has to be given up
- “Covenants without the sword are but words, and of no strength to secure a man at all.” (*Leviathan*)



Source: wikipedia

- Most people are being tied to positions of subordination
- People are members of social groups, of which the family is the most evident
- **Capabilities approach**
 - **threshold is a sufficientarian principle: minimum requirements of justice**
→ everyone must be entitled to each capability at least to this degree by their governments and relevant international institutions
 1. Life
 2. Bodily health
 3. Bodily integrity
 4. Senses, imagination and thought
 5. Emotions
 6. Practical reason
 7. Affiliation
 8. Other species
 9. Play
 10. Political control